

# Art Gallery of Ballarat Interior Upgrades

## Project Cost

**\$5.5 million**

- Heritage wall lining: \$490,000
- Upgrade of HVAC System: \$5 million

## Investment Needed

- Heritage wall lining: \$445,000
- Upgrade of HVAC system: Up to \$4.6 million

## City of Ballarat Investment

- Heritage wall lining: \$45,000 for design
- Upgrade of HVAC system: \$400,000
- Further contribution subject to City of Ballarat 2024/25 budget processes

## Project Description

Replace redundant humidifiers and boilers (HVAC) to ensure the Art Gallery of Ballarat (AGB) collection is preserved, and to enhance the AGB's ability to attract loans and host national and international exhibitions.

Inadequate environmental conditions cause disastrous damage to a gallery collection. The upgrade will reduce the significant reputational risk to the City of Ballarat and result in a reduction in electricity and maintenance costs.

Lining the walls of each gallery will enable the AGB to stop hanging artworks on wires which is inefficient and not best

practice for a major regional Gallery.

Wires are a security risk as they fail and works can be lifted off and removed.

The heritage walls are unstable and unsuitable for contemporary hanging systems.

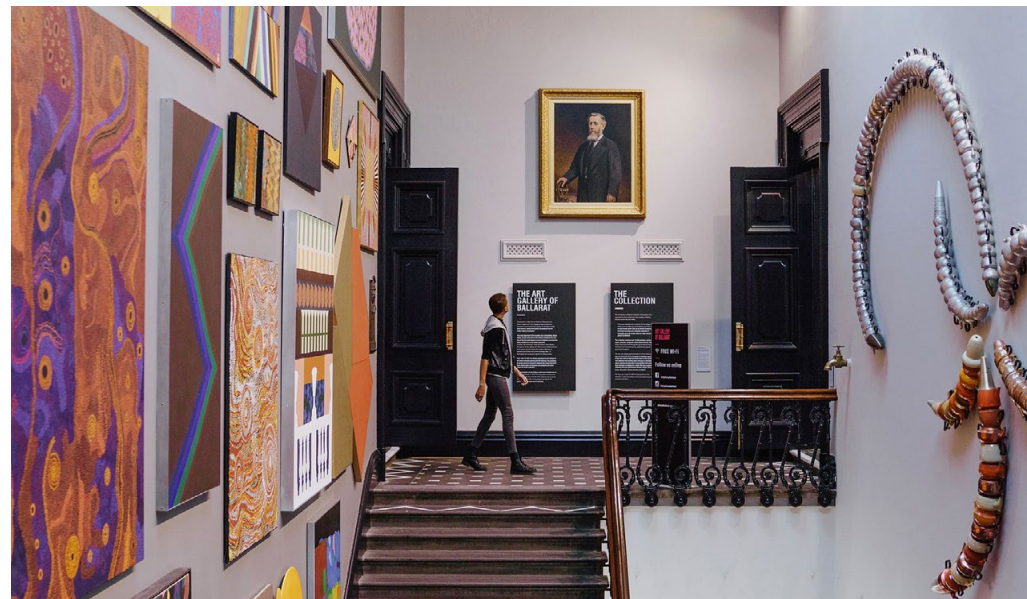
The new linings will enable works to be fixed directly to the wall; improved display infrastructure will mean the AGB can more efficiently and safely undertake changeovers, meaning more artworks can be displayed and more borrowed.

## Why should Governments invest in this project?

### Community Benefit

With 10,500 plus artworks conservatively valued at over \$130 million, the AGB's collection is one of the top five in the country, and the best in regional Australia. It includes some of the most significant paintings of the Australian Impressionists, works related to the Eureka rebellion and early exploration, printmaking and contemporary works.

The AGB hosts over 30 exhibitions and 150 programs and events annually, including international exhibitions.



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*\*Note: All project costs are subject to inflationary pressures leading to cost escalations*

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Art Gallery of Ballarat Interior Upgrades continued

## The Art Gallery is a major economic driver for Ballarat with over 200,000 visitors per year, including 10,000 schoolchildren.

The depth of the collection is reflected in the more than 70 outward loans to national and state galleries each year.

Sadly, the non-compliant environment of the AGB means it is rarely able to borrow works from other collections without making short term arrangements to ensure an appropriate environment.

### Visitor economy benefits

The AGB is a major economic driver for Ballarat with over 200,000 visitors per year, including 10,000 schoolchildren. The proposed works will:

- Increase the AGB's ability to attract blockbuster exhibitions
- Provide the opportunity to increase the number of annual visits, bringing significant financial and job benefits to Ballarat's economy
- Transform display infrastructure to ensure that the AGB can efficiently and safely undertake changeovers that enable the presentation of more artworks and receive more loans

### Protect the Gallery's collection

The proposed works will bring the AGB into line with museum best practice in preserving the Gallery's collection and presenting it in the best possible spaces and conditions.

### Location

- 40 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat Central

### Status

- Both projects are ready to proceed as soon as external funding is secured

### Timeline and Next Steps

- Heritage wall lining is expected to take between three and six months

